

Gallatin County FSA Office
3710 W Fallon St, #D
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County Committee

Larry Dyk, Chairman
Terry Triemstra, Vice-chair
Maynard Flikkema, Member
Jodi Camp, Advisor

FSA Office Personnel

Bob Broyles, CED
Bill Ballard, FLM
Kristi Parker, PT
Norbert Kern, Fieldman

Dates to Remember:

August 4 - September 28 – DCP late filed fee of \$100 will be assessed
September 10 – Signup begins for LCP and LIP
September 24-27 – Tribal Outreach Forum, Gran Tree, Bozeman
September 28 – Final date for late filed 2007 DCP contracts
October 1 – CRP payments begin being issued
October 2 & 3 – Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium, Dillon
October 13 – Deadline for removal of hay from CRP emergency haying and Managed haying
October 15 – CDP Signup Begins
November 2 – COC ballots will be mailed to eligible voters
December 1 – NAP application closing date for Honey
December 3 – Final date to return voted COC ballots to FSA office



Gallatin County News

September 2007

Disaster Program Signup Begins

Signup for the *Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)* and the *Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)* will begin **September 10, 2007**.

Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 or producers located in counties contiguous to those counties are eligible. Also producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration made by President Bush may also be eligible for LCP, LIP and DDAP.

LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007 due to natural disaster. This can include producers who suffered losses resulting from blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007. Livestock producers may elect to receive compensation for calendar year 2007 grazing season losses that are attributable to wildfire natural disaster occurring during the applicable period as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. Eligible livestock include: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, deer or swine. Producers will not be penalized if they reduced the average number of livestock they owned for grazing during the production year for which assistance is being provided. The payment rate for each livestock category will be 61 percent of the USDA determined national payment rate.

LIP compensates livestock producers for livestock losses between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 that resulted from natural disasters. Eligible livestock include: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, or deer. The payment rate will be 26 percent of the market value of the livestock on the day before the date of death, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. These rates will be available at the FSA office during the sign-up period.

Producers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in LCP or LIP benefits. Eligible producers must choose only one year for which they wish to receive benefits in either of the programs.

Crop Disaster Program Signup Begins

Signup for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) will **begin October 15, 2007**. CDP does not require a disaster declaration.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before February 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price.

Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits.

Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP)

The signup date for DDAP has currently not been set. The program provides benefits to dairy producers for dairy production losses. Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared disaster areas are eligible. More information on the program will be provided when it is received.

New Soil Rental Rates

CRP rental rates provide the basis for maximum payment rate calculations used to determine annual rental payments on a per acre basis. Periodic reviews are required to ensure that rental rates reflect county average cash market dry land rents. A state wide review was completed this summer. This review of cash market dry land rents resulted in an increase of \$1 on a majority of the individual soil types. These new rates became effective on August 16, 2007 and will apply to new CRP contracts approved on or after that date. The new CRP soil rental rates are posted at the local County FSA Office.

COC Election

Ballots for the county committee (COC) election will be mailed to eligible voters by November 2. The final date to submit ballots to the FSA county office is December 3. Please vote and have your voice be heard for USDA programs to fit the needs of the local community.

DCP Signature Deadline is September 28, 2007

Producers who wish to enroll in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) have until September 28th to provide all contract signatures for share acres and late-filed fees, if applicable. If unsure about the status of your farm(s), give the office a call. Contracts received after that date can not be approved.



Rural Youth Loans

FSA makes loans to individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations.

Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Who may borrow?

To qualify for a loan, an applicant must:

- Be a citizen of the United States (or a permanent resident), which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
- Be between 10 and 20 years old;
- Live in a town of less than 10,000 residents;
- Be unable to obtain a loan from other sources; and
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work, as outlined above.

The project adviser must recommend the project and the loan and agree to provide adequate supervision.

What are some possible projects?

All projects must be a income producing project.

What is the maximum loan amount?

The maximum amount for FSA youth loans is \$5,000

What security is required?

Applicants must sign a promissory note and be responsible for repaying the loan. In some cases, a cosigner may be required. Loan collateral normally consists of items purchased with loan funds.

What are the repayment terms?

The repayment schedule will be worked out with FSA. Payments will be tailored to the type of project for which the loan was made.

Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium

The Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium will be held October 2 & 3, 2007 at the Beaverhead Golf Course, Highway 41 North in Dillon. Early registration is \$50 due by September 20. The Symposium is sponsored by the State FAC, MT Agri-Women, MT Farm Bureau Women, WIFE and the MT Cattlewomen. The symposium provides a platform for women involved in the promotion of Montana's agriculture to learn of issues affecting rural agricultural communities, promote leadership development, and further support women's leadership roles.

An agenda including the registration form is available at the FSA office or by logging into the Montana FSA homepage at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

One Month Extension for MILC Payments

The Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program payment rate calculation at 34 percent has been extended for the month of September 2007. The MILC program compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level. The one month extension was provided through the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2007. Under previous law, the MILC payment period and 34 percent rate expired at the end of August 2007, and the payment rate for September 2007 was zero percent.

Dairy producers may contact the local FSA office to change their production start month to September 2007. However, since the payment rate for September is \$0, there is no value in making changes to existing contracts.

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Important Dates to Remember

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2008 NAP Important Dates

Crop	Application Closing Date
Perennial Forage, Mint, Mixed Forage, All Types	March 15, 2008
Annual Crops – Both Fall & Spring Seeded Crops: Winter Peas & Rye; Garlic; Wheat Forage; Millet; Buckwheat; Sorghum Forages	March 15, 2008
Perennial Fruit (Apples, Cherries, etc.)	March 15, 2008
Honey	December 1, 2007

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact Bob Broyles, CED, at 3710 W Fallon St, (406) 522-4000, or by email at robert.broyles@mt.usda.gov.